

ABSTRACT

A woven tube having a warp direction oriented lengthwise to the tube and a fill direction oriented circumferentially of the tube is disclosed. The tube is woven from a plurality of elastic warp yarns arranged parallel to the warp direction and a plurality of elastic fill yarns arranged parallel to the fill direction. The tube has one or more discrete regions of relatively greater flexibility formed in either the warp or fill directions at locations along the tube. The flexibility is oriented in the warp direction or the fill direction by weaving either the warp or fill yarns, respectively, under relatively less tension.